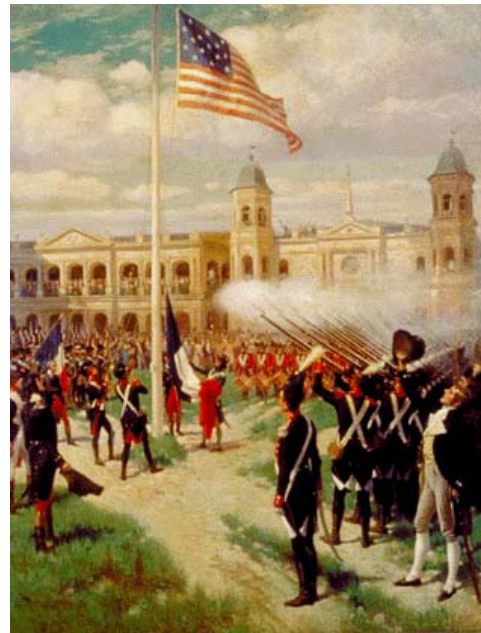


## *Information on the Louisiana Purchase*

After President Thomas Jefferson bought the Louisiana Territory from France for \$15 million, the official transfer ceremony took place in New Orleans on December 20, 1803. This ceremony, which transferred the Louisiana Territory from France to the United States, occurred at the *Cabildo* (below, center), which was the city hall for New Orleans and also the administrative capitol of the Louisiana Territory. On the second floor (below, left), French Colonial Prefect Pierre Clement de Laussat and U.S. representatives William C.C. Claiborne and General James Wilkinson gathered in the Sala Capitular (council room) to sign the transfer treaty and make the transfer official.

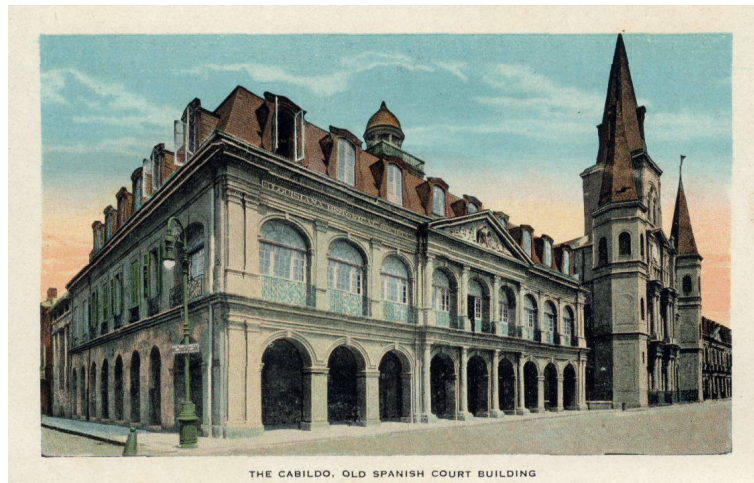


council. Over the years, the building also served as the home of the Louisiana Supreme Court; it was



here that decisions in the nationally significant *Slaughterhouse* and *Plessy vs. Ferguson* cases were handed down. It was established as the home of the Louisiana State Museum in 1911. In 1988 the *Cabildo* was severely

damaged by fire. Over the next five years, the landmark was authentically restored using 600-year-old French timber framing technology. It reopened to the public in 1994 with a comprehensive exhibit focusing on Louisiana's early history."



The site of the Louisiana Purchase Transfer and the flagship building of the Louisiana State Museum historical museum complex, the *Cabildo* was constructed in 1795-99 as the seat of the Spanish municipal government in New Orleans. The name of the governing body who met there was the "Illustrious *Cabildo*" or city

<http://lsm.crt.statela.us/cabex.htm>

[Images (clockwise), courtesy of The Louisiana State Museum, rootsweb.com, and the Architect of the Capitol]